

Breast Assessment Clinic



Information for patients

This leaflet explains what happens at your Breast Assessment Clinic appointment.

If you have any queries or concerns about your appointment please contact the clinical nurse specialist in breast screening.

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your **name** and **date of birth** and check your **ID band**. If you don't have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address.

If we don't ask these questions, then please ask us to check.

Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

Why have I been asked to come to the Breast Assessment Clinic?

You have recently had a routine screening breast x-ray (mammogram). Sometimes this does not give us enough information to provide a result, so we have asked you to come to the Breast Assessment Clinic for some specialist tests. These will enable us to examine your breast in more detail to find out if there is anything wrong. This does not necessarily mean you have a serious abnormality.

We ask about 5% of women to come back after a routine screening mammogram to have more tests so we can get a final result. The majority of women who need more tests have no cancer found.

You may not need to have all of the tests described in this leaflet, but it is very important that you come to this appointment.

What happens at the Breast Assessment Clinic?

When you arrive at the appointment you will be met by one of the clinical nurse specialists who will be able to give you a brief explanation of why you are being asked to come in and what you can expect on the day. The nurse will also help to answer any questions or concerns you may have. After seeing the nurse you will have further x-rays (mammograms) taken.

You will be seen by a doctor (radiologist) who will show you the x-rays you had at your routine screening. They will explain in more detail why we asked you to come back for more tests.

We do the following tests at the clinic:

- **Breast x-rays (mammograms)**

Most women will have more x-rays to show a part of the breast in more detail. These will be taken by a radiographer.



- **Breast examination**

The doctor may examine your breasts before you have an ultrasound.

- **Breast ultrasound**

Many women have an ultrasound scan at this appointment. It uses sound waves to give us a picture of your breast tissue. It does not hurt and does not involve any x-rays.

After an ultrasound, you often do not need any more tests. You will be invited for another routine screening in three years' time or advised to self-refer for screening if you are over 70.

The doctor will write to your GP (home doctor) with the results of the tests. If you want, we can also send a copy of this letter to your home address.

- **Breast needle biopsy**

If we think you have an abnormality, you may need a biopsy to help with the diagnosis.

This involves putting a needle into the area so we can take a cell or a tissue sample (biopsy). You will have a local anesthetic, which means you will be awake but your breast will be numb.

How long will I be at the clinic?

You may be at the clinic for most of the morning or afternoon (two to four hours). You are welcome to bring a relative or friend with you for support. However, on occasion we may need to ask the accompanying person to wait outside the department if the waiting room is crowded.

When will I get the results?

If you did not have a needle biopsy, the doctor will talk to you about the results of your tests before you leave the clinic.

If you had a needle biopsy, we will give you an appointment for about a week later, to discuss the results.

Who can I contact with queries and concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns about your assessment, you can contact the clinical nurse specialist before your appointment on the telephone number below:

Clinical nurse specialist:

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Tel: 020 3299 3615

Please leave a message on the answerphone and a nurse will get back to you as soon as possible.

More information

NHS Breast Screening Programme

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

London Breast Screening

www.london-breastscreening.org.uk

How to find us

Come to the main Golden Jubilee entrance on Bessemer Road. Walk straight ahead, past the Helpdesk on your left, and go through two sets of double doors. Breast radiology is straight ahead.

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.



Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleton Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: **020 3299 3601**

Email: **kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net**

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact Interpreting Services on 020 3299 4826 or email kch-tr.interpreting@nhs.net.



